

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS Minutes of the Regular Meeting
June 8, 2021 8:00 pm
In Person at the Freedom Township Hall

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Lindemann called the meeting to order at 8:01pm

Members present: Lindemann, Bristle, Layher, Huehl, Schaible absent: none 8 were present in the audience

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Change to Agenda: none

4. Approval of Minutes: Moved by Schaible supported by Huehl to: Approve the May 11, 2021 Township Board minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes CARRIED

Approval of Public Hearing Minutes: Moved by Huehl supported by Layher to: Approve the May 20, 2021 Public Hearing minutes with no corrections. Motion carried with all Ayes CARRIED

5. Treasurer's Report: Moved by Schaible supported by Bristle to: Approve May 11, 2021 Treasurers report. Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Layher, Lindemann, Bristle, Schaible Nay: none CARRIED

6. Communications: Supervisor Lindemann reported receiving the monthly MTA magazine. We need to keep an eye on SB429, SB430 and SB431 related to restricting Townships regulation of gravel pits. He received an email from Jared Sawyer, from Levy gravel pit, that we need to pick up our gravel by June 21. The Wash. Co. Road Comm. is unable to pick it up by that date so he will try to arrange other trucking. He received a noise complaint phone call related to fireworks and the resident would like a fireworks ordinance considered. It is a difficult ordinance to enforce without police services within the township. The next SWWCOG will be tomorrow night at the Bridgewater Twp hall. He also received a phone call from a resident on Ellsworth road with a complaint of the noise from low flying aircrafts. That planes flying into Metro airport are starting their descend sooner. He is not sure we have any control over that situation. He received an email from the Manchester Mirror to do an interview on the recent resolution to oppose HB4722 to eliminate a municipality's ability to regulate short-term vacation rentals.

7. Public Comment: Beth Heuser would like to thank the board for brine put on Hieber Road last week. And she turned in 8 letters signed by residents in support of a viable safety plan and warning system and high-speed internet service.

8. Reports:

State Police/Washtenaw County Sheriff Report: Sup. Lindemann shared the May report. There were 19 calls with 12 handled by the Mich. St. Police, 0 by Wash. Co., and 7 were administratively cleared.

Planning Commission report: Matt Little was unable to attend. Dan Schaible reported the PC met June 1, and approved the extraction renewal application for the Stoneco Burmeister Pit. A public hearing has been set for Aug. 3rd at 7:30pm to review a draft amendment to the zoning ordinance regarding solar/alternative energy sources. A full copy of the PC minutes is available from clerk or on twp. website.

Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Austin Helber reported for the month of May he mailed a letter to the home on Happy Hollow Dr. for possibly being rented out as a short-term rental. A letter was mailed to 6251 Lima Center Rd for yard maintenance and unregistered vehicles. A letter was mailed to ~~44420~~ 11445 Waters Rd for yard maintenance, unregistered vehicles and scrap metal that needs to be cleaned up. A letter was mailed to 10995 Pleasant Lake Rd for an unregistered truck with a flat tire.

Zoning Inspector –Jim Coval submitted zero zonings for the month of May.

Library- Susan Layher submitted a report from the May 24th meeting. The Manchester Library will re-open June 1st at 50% capacity. The summer reading program will begin in June. The board needs to repair the elevator door so it was decided to pay off the elevator and with the repair it cost just over \$60,000. The board held a second meeting to approve the annual budget.

Clerk report: Clerk Bristle reported the township auditor has submitted the F-65 report and completed the 2019-2020 township audit. It should be available for review next month and we will begin work on the 2020-2021 year. Last month the board voted to get a new flag for the flag pole outside. It has not been purchased yet so Rudy will measure it and Valisa will order. Clerk is working with Chris Mikesall to put together a summer newsletter for the township. Sup. Lindemann received an email from Applied Imaging an IT company in Ann Arbor that would like to set up a meeting to go over services they provide. Valisa will arrange the meeting.

9. Unfinished Business:

Pipeline Safety/Communications Event- Clerk Bristle has been in communication with the Michigan Public Service Commission, pipeline safety division and Wash. Co. Emergency Services Dept to start putting together an emergency planning event with the county, Manchester Fire Department and the 7 pipelines running through the township. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th, 2021 at the Freedom Town Hall starting at 10:00am. Clerk Bristle will continue to send out invites and communications for this event.

Manchester Fire Department Contract/Billing – Discussion on the current fire contract cost and billing issues. Clerk looked up the past motion to stop billing the \$750 for fire runs and the way it is worded believes we can bill for additional services required by the Manchester Fire Dept. when responding to a call. Denny or Larry will contact Ron Milkey, Manchester Twp. Supervisor, regarding a meeting to discuss billing options.

Sign for Cemetery- Discuss on purchasing a sign for the Freedom Emanuel Evangelical Memorial Cemetery. Motion by Lindemann supported by Layher to: purchase a 12x18 cemetery sign from Steele Graphic in Manchester for around \$25.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Schaible, Bristle, Lindemann, Huehl Nay: none CARRIED

Memorial Gift for Previous Township Officials- Discussion was had on purchasing a gift to be displayed at the town hall in memory/ honor of township officials and committee members who previously served Freedom Township. The idea of a plaque with names and years served along with a tree or bench was discussed. The board will continue to think of different ideas and costs associated and continue discussion at the next meeting.

10. New Business:

Resolution 2021-11- The following resolution was offered by Bristle, and supported by Huehl to adopt resolution 21-11 now therefore be it resolved that Freedom Township Board of Trustees encourages the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to allocate ARP funding to a high-speed broadband public/private partnership that serves to connect every home and business in Washtenaw County, thus achieving true high-speed broadband equity and is conducive to the development and implementation of a robust, affordable and sustainable high speed broadband service for Freedom Township.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Huehl, Lindemann, Schaible, Layher, Bristle Nay: none CARRIED

BSA Software – It was discussed with the township auditor, clerk and treasurer that it may be helpful to use the same accounting program. Currently the clerk uses Quickbooks and the treasurer uses BS&A as well as some long hand check writing. Rudy will contact BS&A and get a quote on what a system for both officials would cost and look like.

Capital Improvement List – Sup. Lindemann presented a list of possible capital improvement projects to start with. Amount the list are road repair/culverts within the township, township wide internet service, emergency notification system, electronic sign out front of the town hall, outdoor security cameras, and emergency first responders equipment fund to name a few. This is a topic that the board will keep discussing.

11. Warrants: Motion by Lindemann supported by Layher: To approve the online payments for the 941 tax withholding and warrants 4772-4794.

Roll call vote was unanimous. Aye: Layher, Schaible, Bristle, Lindemann, Huehl Nay: none CARRIED

12. Public Comment: Lon Nordeen shared that there are 2 houses for sale on Pleasant Lake Road around Pleasant Lake with failing well/septic systems.

Valisa brought ice cream bars to share in celebration of June Dairy month something that former Supervisor Dale Weidmayer had done.

Adjourned at 10:10 pm

Valisa L. Bristle,
Clerk, Freedom Township